

DETAILED ACTION

In response to applicant's appeal brief dated April 30, 2008

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see page 6, lines 5-7 of the appeal brief, filed on April 30, 2008, with respect to claim 11 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 11-21 has been withdrawn. Upon further consideration, claims 11-21 are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-21 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 11 is allowed because the prior art of record does not show or suggest a filter element for filtering fluids having outer, middle and inner support elements arranged concentrically about a longitudinal axis in an alternating succession with filter units; said middle and outer support elements having channels being bordered by longitudinal ribs extending along spiral tracks; and conduits convey fluids to be filtered from outside said outer and inner filter units to inner clean sides thereof and from one

side of said middle filter unit to an opposite clean side thereof, in combination with the remaining limitations in the claim.

Claims 12-21 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 11.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MADELINE GONZALEZ whose telephone number is (571)272-5502. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Sample can be reached on 571-272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1797

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Madeline Gonzalez
Patent Examiner
May 29, 2008

/Krishnan S Menon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797